

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Mold Mould for the continuous casting of round billet and bloom formats, comprising a copper tube ~~[(3)]~~, which forms a mold mould cavity ~~[(4)]~~, and an arrangement for cooling the copper tube by water-circulation cooling, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the copper tube ~~[(3)]~~ is provided over ~~[(the)]~~ its entire circumference and substantially over ~~[(the)]~~ its entire length with a supporting shell ~~[(12)]~~ which supports the copper tube ~~[(3)]~~ at ~~[(the)]~~ its tube outer lateral surface ~~[(5)]~~ at supporting surfaces ~~thereof~~ ~~[(8)]~~, and ~~in that further comprising~~ cooling ducts ~~[(6)]~~ for guiding the ~~cooling~~ water ~~are~~ distributed over the entire circumference and arranged substantially over the entire mold mould length in one of the copper tube ~~[(3)]~~ ~~or in~~ and the supporting shell ~~[(12)]~~.
2. (Currently Amended) Mold Mould for the continuous casting of polygonal billet and bloom formats, ~~preferably having rectangular cross-sections~~, comprising a copper tube ~~[(23)]~~, which forms a mold mould cavity ~~[(24)]~~, and an arrangement for cooling the copper tube ~~[(23)]~~ by water-circulation cooling, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the copper tube ~~[(23)]~~ is provided at the tube outer lateral surface ~~[(25)]~~, substantially over the entire circumference and substantially over the entire length, with supporting plates (32—32'') which are connected to the copper tube ~~[(23)]~~ and which support the walls of the copper tube ~~[(23)]~~ at supporting surfaces ~~thereof~~ (28, 28'), and ~~in that further comprising~~ cooling ducts ~~[(26)]~~ for guiding the ~~cooling~~ water ~~are~~ distributed over the entire circumference and arranged substantially over the entire mold mould length in one of the copper tube ~~[(23)]~~ ~~or in~~ and the supporting plates (72, 72').
3. (Currently Amended) Mold Mould according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the cooling ducts (6, 26) reduce the wall thickness of the copper tube (3, 23) ~~in the region of where the cooling ducts are located (6, 26) by an amount selected from the group consisting of 20% to 70%, preferably by and 30% to 50%.~~
4. (Currently Amended) Mold Mould according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the cooling ducts (6, 26) ~~take up~~ occupy an amount of the outer surface of the copper tube

- selected from the group consisting of 65% to 95%, preferably and 70% to 80%, of the outer surface of the copper tube (3, 23).
5. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the copper tube ~~(3, 23)~~ has a residual wall thickness of 4 mm to 10 mm ~~in the region of~~ where the cooling ducts are located ~~(6, 26).~~
 6. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim 2, wherein ~~characterised in that in the case of the mold is rectangular billet and bloom moulds and~~ four supporting plates ~~(32—32'')~~ are releasably attached to the copper tube (23), each supporting plate ~~(32—32'')~~ butting at its an end face against one neighbouring an adjacent plate and overlapping the ~~other neighbouring another adjacent plate.~~
 7. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim 2, wherein ~~characterised in that neighbouring supporting plates (32, 51, 52) adjacent to each other~~ are screwed together in the corner regions of the copper tube (23) and form a supporting box arranged around the copper tube ~~(23).~~
 8. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim 2, further comprising ~~characterised in that~~ elastic seals ~~[(54)]~~ which allow expansions of the copper tube walls ~~are arranged in overlap gaps between the supporting plates (51, 52).~~
 9. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the supporting surfaces comprise ~~characterised in that the cooling ducts (6, 26) are delimited by at least one of supporting ribs (8, 28) and/or and connecting ribs that delimit the cooling ducts (9, 29) which support the copper tube (3, 23) on the supporting plates (32) or on the supporting shell (12) and/or connect it thereto.~~
 10. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim 2, further comprising ~~characterised in that, for each side of the strand,~~ narrow supporting surfaces ~~10 (28')~~ are arranged along the corner regions thereof and connecting ribs (9, 29, 59) are arranged in ~~the a~~ middle region

of the ~~mold~~ ~~mould~~ sides, the connecting ribs (9, 29, 59) being provided with securing devices to prevent transverse movements ~~transversely to the strand axis~~.

11. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim ~~101~~ ~~or 2~~, wherein characterised in that the securing devices are selected from the group consisting of device comprises a dovetail profile, a T-profile for sliding blocks and or a clamping device etc.
12. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim 2, wherein characterised in that the copper tube (23) has forms a curved mold ~~mould~~ cavity (24) and has curved supporting surfaces and the two supporting plates (32, 32'') which support the curved side walls of the copper tube (23) have plane boundary surfaces at their sides (36, 36'') opposite the curved supporting surfaces.
13. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim ~~1~~ ~~or 2~~, wherein characterised in that the cooling ducts (6, 26, 55) are milled into the copper tube (3, 23) and are closed off with a copper layer (58) produced by electrodeposition.
14. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim ~~1~~ ~~or 2~~, wherein characterised in that the supporting plates (32—32'') or the supporting shell (12) consist or consists of a material selected from the group consisting of a metallic material, preferably austenitic steel, or and non-metallic material which can be easily penetrated by magnetic fields.
15. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim ~~1~~ ~~or 2~~, further comprising characterised in that externally-arranged magnetic devices selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic coils (14) are arranged outside the supporting plates (32—32'') or the supporting shell (12), or and moving permanent magnets are fitted into the supporting plates (32—32'') or the supporting shell (12).
16. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim ~~1~~ ~~or 2~~, further comprising characterised in that a protective layer (57) to prevent electrolytic corrosion is arranged

between the supporting plates (32—32'', 51, 52) or the supporting shell (12) and the copper tube (3, 23, 56).

17. (Currently Amended) Mold ~~Mould~~ according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further comprising characterised in that the ~~supporting plates (65) or the supporting shell (12) are or is provided with cooling-water supply lines (64) and discharge lines (68) which are arranged at the an~~ upper end of the mold ~~mould~~ and that can be connected to the cooling-water network by means of a coupling plate (67).